[English]

New Exchanges in Karnataka

6341. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in Karnataka during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the names of places where these exchanges are likely to be set up; and

(c) the time by which these new telephone exchanges are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The names of places where new exchanges are to be commissioned during 1997-98 are not yet decided.

Telephone Industry-Srinagar

6342. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees working in telephone industry in Srinagar;

(b) when this industry was established in Srinagar;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to expand this industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of permanent employees presently working in Srinagar Unit of ITI is 160.

(b) The Unit was established at Srinagar in 1969.

(c) to (e) The capacity of this Unit is to produce 2 lakh telephones per year. However, due to the prevalent law & order situation at Srinagar, this Unit has not been able to utilise even 25% of its capacity. Therefore, the question of its capacity expansion does not arise for the present.

Acquisition of Land for Construction of Post Office

6343. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had acquired land for postal building construction at village Nalia in 1992, Khavadada in 1981, Kheda in 1983 and Kukma in 1993; and

(b) if so, the use acquiring the land for the purpose and keeping it for more than 15 years unutilised and the disadvantages of the villagers in the absence of post offices functioning in these villages?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to paucity of funds, the department could not take up the construction work and the villagers are not facing any disadvantage due to absence of post offices in these villages as they are being served by the nearest post office.

Foreign Loans For Aircraft

6344. DR. C. SILVERA:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has been allowed to have a foreing loan to induct three air-bus A-310 and Boeing 747-400 aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount required therefor; and

(c) the time by which the External Commercial Borrowings are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Project proposals for induction of additional A-310 and Boeing 747-400 aircraft have not been approved by the Government so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Indian/Foreign Passengers Avail Air Services in Rajasthan

6345. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian as well as foreign passengers who availed of air services in Rajasthan during the last three years and amount earned therefrom;

(b) whether the present air services are adequate keeping in view the number of passengers;

(c) if not, the efforts made by the Government to increase the number of flights; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) The number of passengers who availed of Indian Airlines services in Rajasthan during the last three years and amount earned therefrom are as under:-